

Vishnutheja Rachakonda

Biography



My name is Vishnutheja Rachakonda. I am a 12th grader at Eleanor Roosevelt HS¹ in Greenbelt, Maryland and the student president for the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Club and FRC Team 53, "Area 53". I have been involved with FIRST programs since the 7th grade. I participated in FLL programs in my middle school and in local STEM clubs. I have been a member of FRC Team 53 from the 9th grade onwards. I held the positions of team treasurer (10th grade) and club president (11th and 12th grade). I have assisted in the development of the Prince George's Area Robotics Alliance and the Western Alliance of Maryland, regional organizations created to support FIRST programs, and presented at an event in support of FRC with UMD Engineering Dean Darryll Pines.

Additionally, in the 11th grade, I personally mentored a local FLL team, the C.T. Reed ES Roadrunners (Team 15893).

FIRST programs have made a major impact on me and have driven me to engage the STEM fields more thoroughly than any other activity, in-school or extracurricular. My performance in the classroom and in research positions at NIH and UMD has been impacted tremendously from the personal and professional skills I have gained. Recently, I went to Japan to present original research at a conference for other high school students. There, I described my experience in FIRST programs to students, world-renowned researchers, and Education Ministry officials. Their amazement with the FIRST programs allowed me to appreciate them far more.

¹ Eleanor Roosevelt High School and FRC Team 53 have a significant number of students from the 4th Congressional District of Maryland represented by Rep. Donna Edwards.